



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

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GENEVA, 16 February 2010

Annexes: 2

Dear Colleagues,

As you are aware the Intergovernmental Meeting convened by WMO in Geneva on 11 and 12 January 2010, following the decision of the World Climate Conference – 3 (WCC-3), approved the terms of reference (Annex A) and endorsed the composition (Annex B) of the High-level Taskforce (HLT) for the Global Framework on Climate Services (GFCS). The report of the Intergovernmental Meeting and materials related to the HLT are available on the website: www.wmo.int/gfcs.

According to the terms of reference, the HLT will develop a report, including the recommendations on proposed elements of the GFCS, which should be completed in January 2011 and submitted to the Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress in May 2011. As requested by the WCC-3 Declaration, I shall also provide the report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the UN System Organizations, Funds and Programmes.

I feel that the HLT, a diverse group of high-level independent advisors with strong capacity and expertise in various fields has the potential to recommend exciting and innovative ways for assisting the world to cope with climate variability and climate change through provision and proper use of climate services. I certainly strongly believe that the GFCS should build on the collective expertise and operational infrastructure of UN System and enhanced capability of the world community of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and user communities in all climate-sensitive sectors in providing and use of operational climate products and services through their effective interaction.

I invite your organizations, as I have invited all Governments and other relevant organizations, to submit **views to the HLT for its consideration by 15 April 2010** as requested by the Intergovernmental Meeting. I trust however that a **coordinated comprehensive input of the UN System** in the spirit of UN Delivering as One, demonstrated and appreciated at the last UNFCCC Conferences of Parties and at the WCC-3, would considerably facilitate the analytical work of the HLT and that the HLCP could develop the required input through its climate knowledge group and working group on climate. Basing on the Brief Note on GFCS (appended to the WCC-3 Declaration) and inventory of UN system activities related to climate services, the UN system input could include *inter-alia*, available operational and anticipated products and systems at international, regional and country levels, that utilize and/or require climate services. WMO and UNESCO will continue convening this WCC-3 follow-up task and the interactions will continue through the HLCP. In addition, you may wish **to designate a dedicated focal point at a senior level for this specific task** to speed up interactions with the HLT Secretariat.

The HLT will start its work on 25 and 26 February 2010 at its first meeting in Geneva, where it will establish its working method and scope the structure of the report. The HLT will also consider a plan of its consultations with Governments and various communities. In this regard, I feel it would be most useful to suggest HLT a list of opportunities that may be offered to the HLT for this purpose, such as WMO's forthcoming African Ministerial Conference (Nairobi, April 2010)

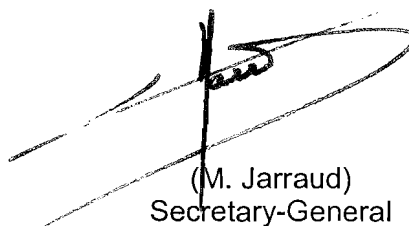
and IPY final science conference (Oslo, June 2010). I would appreciate it if you could consider offering such consultations and taking lead in outreaching your respective communities, or offering special sessions or side events at your planned related events from spring to autumn 2010 and **advise me on these opportunities preferably before 25 February 2010.**

I am making arrangement for setting an HLT Secretariat comprising of few professional and general staff. I kindly invite your organization to **support the HLT** through assisting in their consultations and, if possible, through participation of your staff in the HLT Secretariat. I also invite you to **assist in compiling of a network of experts** in various areas of the GFCS and user sectors to facilitate working consultations, collection of materials and drafting working papers. The costs involved in this work will be covered from contributions to a GFCS trust fund. We have already received significant contributions and pledges and welcome your possible contribution.

The task in front of us is obviously complex, however the success of the WCC-3 achieved with your tremendous support and continued strong practical interest and engagement of Governments in the development of the GFCS is very encouraging. I am confident that collectively, we shall be able to assist Governments in building and implementing the Framework.

I am looking forward to receiving your feedback and contributions. I shall keep you informed on the progress at the next CEB meeting in Vienna.

Yours faithfully,



(M. Jarraud)
Secretary-General

To: Executive Heads of UN System Organizations, Funds and Programmes

ANNEX A

Terms of Reference for the High-level Taskforce for the Global Framework for Climate Services

Preamble

The High Level Declaration adopted by the WCC-3 decided to establish a Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) to strengthen the production, availability, delivery and application of science-based climate prediction and services. The Declaration requested the Secretary-General of the WMO to convene an Intergovernmental Meeting of Member States of WMO to approve the terms of reference and to endorse the composition of a High-level Taskforce (HLT) of independent advisers. The Declaration further decided that the Taskforce should prepare a report, including recommendations for proposed elements of the GFCS as well as for the next steps to develop and implement the GFCS.

Scope of work

The HLT will undertake its work in accordance with the WCC-3 Declaration and will:

1. Develop the components of GFCS and define the roles, responsibilities, and capabilities of the elements within the GFCS and clearly illustrate how it will assist the integration of climate information and services into national planning, policy and programmes for, among others, water resource management and development, health and public safety, energy generation and distribution, agriculture and food security, land and forestry management, desertification, eco-system protection, sustainable development and poverty reduction, taking into account the special needs of Africa, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs);
2. Develop options for governance of the GFCS, ensuring its intergovernmental nature, and provide the reasoning for the preferred option(s);
3. Outline of a plan for the implementation of the GFCS, which includes:
 - Ensuring the central role of national governments;
 - Proposing a range of options for immediate and longer-term actions to realize the GFCS;
 - Specifying measurable indicators, with timelines, for the actions necessary to implement the elements of the GFCS;
 - Estimates of costs of implementation of these options, with clear indications of the financial resources and enhanced technological capabilities required, and their likely sources, to ensure effective global implementation; and,
 - A strategy for capacity building in developing countries, particularly those of the African countries, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Countries (SIDS) and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs);
4. Make findings and propose next steps in relation to:
 - i. The role of the UN system and other relevant stakeholders, as well as the mechanisms for their contributions;
 - ii. Approaches to global data policy (addressing data gaps, ownership, data protection, confidentiality, exchange, applications, and usage), that would lead to enhanced capability of the GFCS, taking into account Resolution 40 of the Twelfth WMO Congress and Resolution 25 of the Thirteenth WMO Congress;

- iii. Improving systematic in situ observations and monitoring of climate especially in data-sparse areas, in order to increase data availability, including for research and prediction;
 - iv. Approaches for reviewing the implementation of the GFCS;
 - v. Strategies for building capacity in developing countries in accordance with their needs and priorities, including their access to global and regional climate models output and the underlying technology embedded in the models, and their ability to independently develop/improve in-country climate services capacity; and,
 - vi. A strategy for promoting a common global understanding of the GFCS and for coherent and coordinated messaging and information sharing;
5. Determine its own rules of procedure with consensus on the guiding principle for decision taking;
 6. Be open and transparent in its functioning, making publicly available, including through the WMO Website, the following:
 - A report of each meeting held, including a list of participants;
 - Any submissions received; and,
 - Any “White Papers” generated as a part of its research activities.

Support for the Taskforce

Secretariat support will be provided by WMO, which will host its secretariat and seek funding and other support for its work.

ANNEX B

Membership of the High-level Taskforce for the Global Framework for Climate Services

1. Joaquim CHISSANO (Mozambique)
 2. Jan EGELAND (Norway)
 3. Angus FRIDAY (Grenada)
 4. Eugenia KALNAY (Ms) (Argentina/USA)
 5. Ricardo LAGOS (Chile)
 6. Julia MARTON-LEFEVRE (Ms) (Hungary/France/USA)
 7. Khotso MOKHELE (South Africa)
 8. Chiaki MUKAI (Ms) (Japan)
 9. Cristina NARBONA RUIZ (Ms) (Spain)
 10. Rajendra Singh PARODA (India)
 11. QIN Dahe (China)
 12. Emil SALIM (Indonesia)
 13. Mahmoud ABU-ZEID (Egypt)
 14. Fiaame Naomi MATA'AFA (Ms) (Samoa)
 15. High-level representative of indigenous peoples*
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* Potential member to be confirmed